

appear to display stepped areas where they extend over ridges formed in the rigid tubes 12 and 13. However, they do not including alternating wide and narrow parts shaped as circumferentially-extending bellows at intermediate parts, i.e., locations between the ends of tube 14 connected to the rigid tube 12 and the projection 16A, or between the ends of the tube 15 connected to the rigid tube 13 and the projection 17A.

Rabe discloses a radiotelephone having a non-resonant wave guide acoustically coupled to a microphone. The waveguide 30 can include sequential areas of differing cross-sections (Figs. 4 and 5).

Lalikos et al. disclose a metal conduit for use in an environment subject to great vibration (e.g., an exhaust system of an engine) which is formed of a convoluted tube having successive convolutions with varying physical dimensions.

The examiner asserts that, based on Rabe, it would be obvious to utilize stepped areas of tubes 14 and 15 in Gore et al. with alternating cross-sectional areas, and that based on Lalikos et al., it would be obvious to utilize a uniform material thickness in tubes 14 and 15 in Gore et al.

However, nothing in Rabe or Lalikos et al. would overcome the basic deficiency in the examiner's reliance on Gore et al. And since Lalikos et al. relate to a metal conduit, nothing therein would apply to the flexible tubes 4 and 5 of Gore et al., and it is not believed that Lalikos et al. disclose a conduit of uniform thickness.

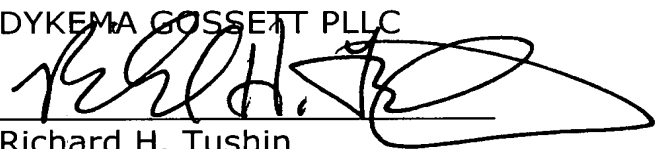
Nothing in Hoefler would overcome these deficiencies.

The examiner's rejection of claim 1 based on Gore et al. in view of Rabe and Lalikos et al. makes no sense and should be withdrawn, and claims 1, 3 and 4 allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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